

Quick Reads

Gerd W. Clabaugh, MPA
Director, Iowa Department of Public Health



Jeff Kahrs (left) met with Director Clabaugh (right).

IDPH tells Iowa's story

IDPH Director Gerd Clabaugh and Deputy Director Sarah Reisetter met with national partners recently; Clabaugh discussed illicit opioid use with [HHS Region 7](#) Director Jeff Kahrs (pictured above) and Reisetter (below right) was in Atlanta for an [ASTHO](#) meeting with Surgeon General Dr. Jerome Adams.

Narcan event successful

In collaboration with the [Iowa Board of Pharmacy](#) and the [Iowa Pharmacy Association](#), IDPH successfully hosted [Narcan Access Day](#), distributing almost 2,000 free Narcan kits. In addition, a declaration went into effect July 1 requiring hospital emergency departments to report non-fatal and fatal opioid overdoses that require Naloxone administration.

Local public health success: Siouxland District Health

[Siouxland Health District's](#) Health Improvement Plan includes decreasing physical inactivity among Woodbury County residents from 27 percent to 25 percent by 2019. Strategies to accomplish this goal include infrastructure improvements to aid activity. Great progress is being made!

In calendar year 2017, [Lawton](#) passed a sidewalk resolution which improved 20 sidewalk segments and added two bike racks. [Sergeant Bluff](#) added and repaired sidewalk segments, trimmed trees along sidewalks and is working on completing a bus shelter with a sidewalk leading to the shelter. [Merville](#) installed a crosswalk and will be looking to add sidewalks in 2018. Siouxland Health is working to make the healthy choice the easy choice.



IDPH Deputy Director Sarah Reisetter (second row, far right) met with Surgeon General Dr. Jerome Adams (first row, seventh person).

IDPH spotlight: Bureau of Local Public Health Services



RCHCs are just a phone call away! Left to right: Becky Nowachek, Erin Barkema, Diane K Anderson, Berdette Ogden, Dawn Mouw, Heather Bombei

The [Bureau of Local Public Health Services](#) includes six [Regional Community Health Consultants](#) (RCHC) who serve as liaisons between local boards of health and local public health agencies. Diane M. Anderson provides contract management for the Local Public Health Services grant. The bureau supports local needs assessment and community organizing processes necessary to encourage community change for improved health.

This small staff's work is expansive and includes:

- Communicable disease surveillance, investigation and follow-up;
- Immunization clinics;
- Personal care and support services, including home care aide and homemaker services;
- Skilled nursing visits in the client's home;
- Screening services, including blood pressure and blood glucose;
- Health education to community groups; and
- Prevention programs like fall prevention, bike safety and home safety inventories.

The bureau's current QI project is to update the Local Board of Health (LBOH) Guidebook and the orientation plan for new LBOH members.

WIC coordinators gather

The bi-annual [WIC](#) Training/Conference was held late last month, with more than 225 local agency dietitians, nurses, support staff and breastfeeding peer counselors in attendance. WIC agencies serving all 99 counties had staff in attendance. Nearly a dozen partner organizations that serve the WIC population also attended to network and build relationships with local agency staff.



Hundreds gathered in Ames for the bi-annual WIC conference.

Oral health honors

According to Oral Health America's *A State of Decay* report, Iowa has jumped from 23rd in the nation to number three for improving prospects for at-risk older adults to receive oral health services. Read the glowing report [here](#).

Congrats and kudos

Authors of "[Effectiveness of a Third Dose of MMR Vaccine for Mumps Outbreak Control](#) (NEJM)," which include Dr. Patricia Quinlisk, have been awarded the Larry J. Anderson Award for Outstanding Public Health Science by the CDC.

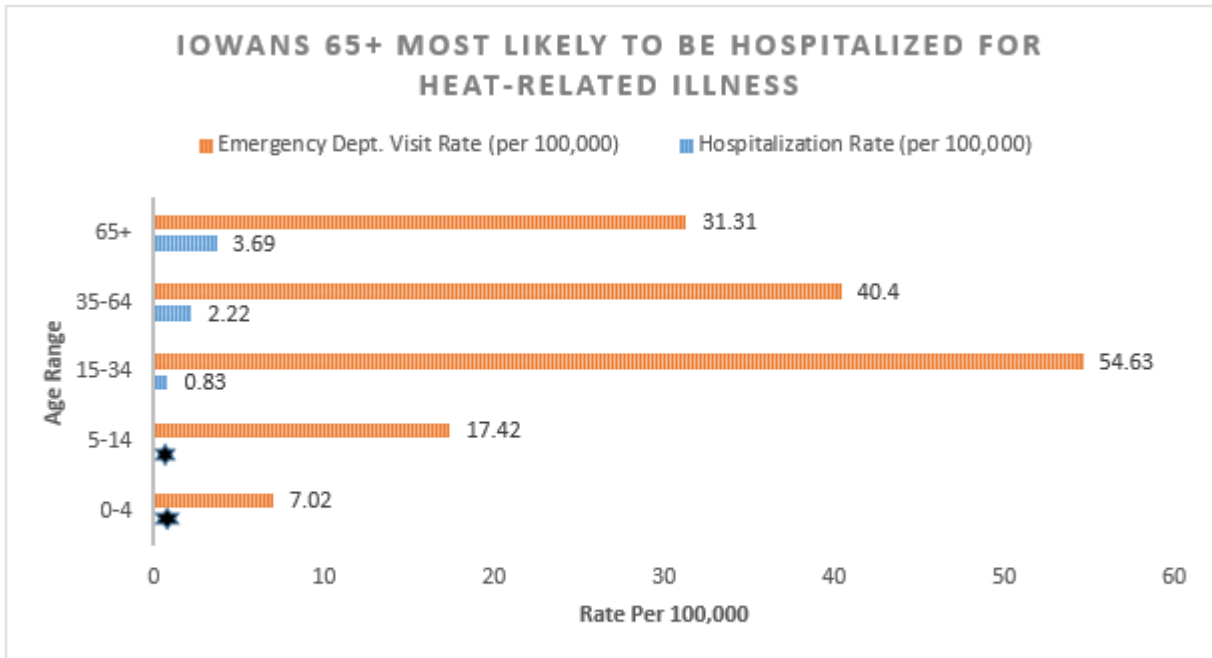
Congrats to [Linn County Public Health](#) Director Pramod Dwivedi, who has been re-elected to the [NACCHO](#) board of directors.

The [Association of Public Health Laboratories](#) has awarded [State Hygienic Laboratory](#) Director Michael Pentella and Director Emeritus Christopher Atchison its Lifetime Achievement Award.



Monthly data snapshot

Data are essential to the practice of public health. Each month, Quick Reads highlights selected tidbits to help create awareness of IDPH data and epidemiology.



Rate (per 100,000) of Iowans with emergency department visits and hospitalizations due to heat-related illness.

Source: 2016 Iowa Inpatient and Outpatient Hospitalization Data

★ Suppressed

Heat-related illness includes a range of health impacts like heat rash, heat cramps and the most common type, heat exhaustion. The most serious heat-related illness is heat stroke. In Iowa, emergency department visits for heat-related illness are highest among the 15- to 34-year-old age group. Hospitalizations for heat-related illness, however, are highest among those ages 65 and older. Prevent heat illness by staying in air conditioning during the hottest part of the day, wearing light and loose-fitting clothing, drinking water and avoiding unnecessary sun exposure. More public health data can be found on the [Iowa Public Health Tracking Portal](#). Questions or comments about IDPH data can be sent [here](#).

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